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EDITOR

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WHARVES AND REVENUE

Something of a bombshell was exploded by the Rice brothers, Senator Harold Rice of this County and Senator Charles Rice of Kauai at a senate committee meeting in which the loan fund was being discussed, when they started an inquiry into what revenues the territory was receiving from its vast expenditures for wharves.

The first question asked by Chairman Charles Rice, as soon as the committee had come to order, was how much revenue the territory obtained from its wharves and piers last year. "This bill," he said, "is making for \$2,200,000. What are we going to get back from it? What did we get back from it? What did we get back last year on all the other millions the territory has spent on wharves and harbors? What is our total investment in wharves and piers, anyway?"

This was more information than Superintendent Bigelow of the department of public works could produce on demand. His annual report, however, showed that total harbor receipts last year, including \$45,000 in pilots fees at Honolulu, were \$205,127.

"In other words," said Charles Rice, "the territory received from wharfage only \$70,000. On the investment which this bill asks, we shall have to find \$1,300,000 every year for interest and sinking funds alone, to say nothing of territorial employees and expenses of maintenance, and we can't get it back, unless Congress passes the bill now before it authorizing us to charge tolls, as does every port on the mainland. Gentlemen, this territory can go bust spending money on piers and wharves that earn no revenue.

"We ought to hold up the whole program," put in Senator Harold Rice, "if this bill doesn't get through Congress."

"And I want to say here, that I never would have asked for a wharf at Mala for Maui if I had not believed it would pay for itself."

Since the greater part of the expenditures in the past have been and in the future will be for Honolulu Harbor, since the preponderating benefits from vast expenditures made and contemplated go to Honolulu businessmen it is not surprising that the Star-Bulletin should say editorially:

"It has been suggested in the territorial senate that the entire program for wharf building should be held up until congress passes a bill permitting the collection of toll charges, thus making the wharves productive of revenue, instead of a more or less direct charge on the public treasury, as they now are. It seems to The Star-Bulletin that inauguration of the policy thus suggested would be a very shortsighted act, much like cutting off one's nose to spite one's self, to quote a homely figure.

"We like the position taken by Senator Russell, who indicated that he would rather have the government accept a reasonable loss on its harbor investments than stifle development of the territory.

"It is desirable, of course, in the interest of public finance, that the toll bill be passed by congress, but in the meantime there should be no letting down in the building of wharves. For the general good of the territory, the government could well afford to keep on making necessary harbor improvements without the slightest prospect of ever obtaining a direct return commensurate with the amount of the investment.

"Each new wharf that is built advances Hawaii further toward the position it must ultimately take as the principal commercial center of the Pacific. Honolulu harbor even now lacks facilities to meet the demands that a rapidly growing commerce are imposing upon it. Each new wharf constructed in Hawaii provides the territory with another agency for the creation of taxable wealth.

"Under no circumstances should delay be permitted in execution of the administration program for harbor improvements."

Senator Harold Rice, speaking to the Maui Chamber of Commerce and to the board of supervisors has called the wharf building program and lack of revenue secured from the wharves the "greatest menace the territory has to meet" and it is not unexpected the question should be precipitated at this session. He has pointed out how the territory's borrowing power can be exhausted under such methods as are now in operation.

Of course Honolulu business interests will fight a slowing down of their waterfront program. It is natural that all parts of the territory should deplore the necessity of doing so but it is the part of wisdom to go slow until it is apparent that the great pier projects can be made at least self supporting even if not revenue producers for the territory. The whole territory, not Honolulu alone, is paying for wharf construction and harbor improvements in Honolulu and for the maintenance upkeep and conduct of such wharves and the vital interests of the whole territory must be protected and safeguarded by the legislators.

HOME FOR FEEBLE MINDED

On her recent home-coming Mrs. H. A. Baldwin called attention to the fact that the home for feeble minded in Honolulu will soon be opened and that in admitting inmates it is to be a case of "first come, first served" that is the first to apply are the first to be admitted. There are, Dr. Hoag has reported, more feeble minded individuals in the boys and the girls industrial schools in Honolulu than the home can accommodate and Honolulu alone could fill several homes of the same capacity. But it is a territorial institution and Maui is entitled to have a fair share of her unfortunate cared for there.

Mrs. Baldwin called attention to the need of quick action. She is enthusiastic over the management that will have charge of the home, the building and its location.

Application blanks for admission can be secured from C. S. Childs at Alexander House Settlement and information will be furnished by him to those desiring it as to methods and procedure. Maui has more unfortunate feeble minded children than would be her rightful share to have admitted to the new institution but the more urgent cases may well be given immediate attention.

SOME STARTLING FIGURES

Statistics furnished Maui News this week show that 35 percent of the school children are in the first grade and 81 percent are in the primary grades. In this county there are 27 one and two room schools and 23 percent of the school children attend those smaller schools. Only 30 percent of Maui's school children attend schools of eight rooms and there are only four such schools.

It must be evident that one or two teachers in a school can teach only a very limited number of grades, three or four, at most five between them and when they undertake more than three grades cannot

do justice to the work for the days are not long enough to hear recitations of more grades. If 23 percent of the children attend schools that can teach only the lower grades, little more than the primary grades, what becomes of them when they finish those schools? The distance to the larger school is usually too remote. Since 64 percent of the children attend schools of less than eight rooms, how many children are not able to get instruction in all Grammar grades?

Could there be a stronger argument offered for free transportation of children living remote from grammar schools of the grade they are fitted to attend? We think not. It is clear Maui is not affording a large proportion of its children a chance to get a grammar school education. There's something wrong.

And it is the more evident there is something wrong when it appears Kauai has only 8 one and two room schools and 6 schools of eight rooms or more and 70 percent of its scholars are in the larger schools.

Either larger schools must be brought about or transportation must be furnished. Maui has an undue proportion of small schools, that is certainly apparent.

COUNTY AND COURTS

Objection has been raised to the proposed measure to give the board of supervisors power to appropriate for the needs of its courts without going to the legislature to spend more than a specified amount that it would have the tendency to make court offices and appointments, other than the judges political plums with the supervisors directing whom the judges should name. It is objected that if the appointment of clerk made by the judge did not suit the board of supervisors that body might cut his salary below living possibilities, even to a dollar a month, force his retirement and refuse a higher salary to any other appointee than the one it might dictate.

Maui News does not believe that any thing of the kind was contemplated or is contemplated nor that it is designed to place appointments in control of the boards of supervisors. It has advocated the measure but would oppose anything that may be construed as an attack upon the freedom of the courts and their judges. The purpose of the bill is, this paper believes, to enable the counties to spend, in case necessity arises, greater sums than the statutes provide. Very costly litigation in criminal cases may come at any time, cases that take weeks and months for the trial and determination. The counties should be placed in a position to meet such emergencies without going to the legislature.

The objection raised can easily be removed by setting a minimum amount which the board of supervisors must provide, setting a minimum amount which must be paid to court clerks and officials and specifically providing that the board must provide for and must meet other requirements of the courts. With such provisions included, this paper would be heartily in favor of the measure.

"Samuel E. Kalama, chairman and executive officer of the Maui board of supervisors, was taking pointers on parliamentary procedure in the 'gallery' yesterday. The next meeting of the Maui 'Fathers' at Wailuku should see the introduction of several innovations in the line of procedure," says The Advertiser.

Don't worry, neighbor. Sam needs no hints, even the veteran speaker of the house has nothing on him in parliamentary tactics.

Maui's legislators have said that they would like to be advised what are the desires of their constituents as to legislation and that they are ready to act in accordance with such wishes. That's the proper spirit on their part and the proper spirit for the citizens would be to accept the invitation and at the same time to let the legislators know their work is being watched with interest. The News publishes lists of senators, representatives and committees of both houses so that the invitation may be more easily accepted.

The bill to base school taxes on school registrations instead of property valuations has been tabled. If Oahu representatives would waken to the fact that their Island is paying \$150,000 more than its fair share of territorial school expenses this year it might be taken off the table. Naturally neither the Big Island nor Kauai want it.

Maui's experience with the Big Islanders in athletic affairs in the past six months has been, to express it mildly, unfortunate. First came the baseball episode prior to the fair, then the invitation for New Year's games and lastly the experience in basketball. It will tend to discourage efforts for closer association in sports.

The Hilo Tribune has adopted a new policy, is making itself an all Hawaii publication and is running an all Hawaii page. Congratulations and best wishes. That's the News plan on this Island to be for all Maui with news of all Maui and it welcomes the assistance of its readers.

It has been suggested that the county might buy a herd of goats and turn them loose on the refuse dump that some persons are causing to accumulate just off the road to Kahului on the beach. It is said it would add a touch of the picturesque to the scenery.

Maui tax assessor is better paid than assessors on the Big Island is a complaint coming from Hilo. Perhaps if the assessors were better paid Hawaii would be paying all its teachers salaries without help from Maui and Honolulu.

Portland, Oregon, is planting miles of roses along its highways and making them otherwise attractive with vines and hedges. How about Maui? Where are the hibiscus and the bougainvillea.

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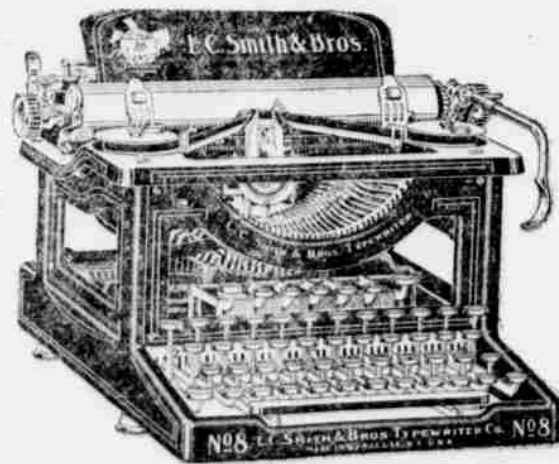
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